



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: April 19, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: April 18, 2004
CWP WA-CW1604

Rain Showers Welcomed by Palouse Crops Spring Planting Almost Complete

Field Crops

Spring grains started to grow as most planting of spring cereals was completed. In Whitman County, growth of winter wheat was slowed due to cooler temperatures and conditions improved with rain. Asotin County winter wheat conditions were reported as varied, and some winter wheat was torn out and reseeded in Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties. Kittitas County hay growers prepared for irrigation. Hop growers began tying.

Livestock

In Lincoln County, calving was winding down. In Western Washington, some grass harvest has begun along with some green chop being removed from forage fields. Walla Walla County reported that pasture conditions were good, while Pend Oreille and Spokane Counties reported that some of their pasture acreage was burning and turning yellow. Overall, pasture conditions were 6% very poor, 13% poor, 37% fair, and 44% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

The daffodil and tulip flower harvest was almost completed. Most fruit bud break and blossoming are about ten days ahead of schedule. Producers in Douglas and Chelan Counties noticed some winter damage to their cherries and pear producers reported that their crop looked light. Whatcom County raspberry growers were concerned over damage to tops of young vines, also due to winter damage. Asparagus cutting slowly began and sweet corn planting continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.0
Last Week	7.0

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	4	25	65	6
Subsoil	3	21	73	3
Irrigation Water	0	2	98	0
Hay & Roughage	0	1	98	1

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2003	5 Yr. Avg.
Spring Wheat Planted	95	80	66	65
Spring Wheat Emerged	69	50	24	28
Barley Planted	91	71	48	48
Barley Emerged	63	35	9	15
Potatoes Planted	45	33	41	42
Potatoes Emerged	20	16	9	13
Corn Planted	30	19	26	17
Corn Emerged	1	0	0	0
Dry Edible Beans Planted	45	0	2	2
Proc. Green Peas Planted	84	55	35	30
Dry Peas Planted	85	40	11	22

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	2	8	43	42	5
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	95	5
Spring Wheat Dryland	0	3	54	37	6
Spring Wheat Irrigated	0	0	8	82	10
Barley Dryland	0	1	56	38	5
Barley Irrigated	0	0	25	70	5
Potatoes	0	0	10	90	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: An ever changing tapestry of color continued to unfold across the rural landscape as agricultural producers took advantage of drier soils and continued field cultivation. The valley floors were a checkerboard of brown and green as additional fields were cultivated for sweet corn planting and the first cutting of green chop was removed from forage fields. Rain showers during the middle of the week increased soil moisture to the point of limiting field cultivation. The daffodil and tulip flower harvest was nearly complete. The 80 degree temperatures which occurred on Easter Sunday resulted in a very short bloom season this year. Christmas tree growers continued to apply herbicide and fertilizer to plantations.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: Rains brought a halt to most field activity. Given the pattern of warmer and drier than normal weather, there were very few complaints about the interruption.

Pierce/S. King: Conditions remained good for row crops and pasture. There were no unusual situations to report and no crop damage was experienced due to weather events.

Skagit: Another week of dry and relatively warm weather allowed farmers to get an excellent start on the planting season. Most tulip fields were topped, leaving Tulip Festival visitors with just a few fields to view. Most everything was seven to ten days ahead of normal schedule. Local berry processors were looking for more product this year, as were pea processors. It was announced that green pea growers will receive ten dollars more per ton above 2003 prices.

Snohomish/N. King: The temperatures were normal to slightly below normal. Showers were heavy during the week, but precipitation year to

date is still almost 50 percent of normal for northern Snohomish County. Drier fields were worked in preparation for planting. The landscape continued to be full of bright spring colors as plants, flowers and trees bloomed. Pastures were bright green with new growth.

Snohomish/King: Scattered showers were experienced throughout the week. Pasture growth was excellent. Fieldwork continued and grass harvest had begun. Apple trees were in full bloom. Stone fruit bloom was tapering off.

Thurston: A week of cool temperatures and rain showers brought a quick transition to the record breaking temperatures and dry weather of the previous week. Rain showers throughout the week prevented any field activity until the weekend, when soils began to dry. Christmas tree growers continued fertilizing plantations between showers. Turfgrass growers actually started irrigating early in the week until sufficient rainfall met moisture requirements. Despite the cooler temperatures of this past week, agricultural producers seemed to be in consensus that plant development appeared to be about two weeks ahead of schedule this year as compared to previous years. Retail nurseries and garden stores continued to report excellent sales of bedding plants, ornamental trees, and shrubs.

Whatcom: Spring weather continued with sporadic rain showers and sunny periods. Spring fieldwork also continued with cultivation and planting. Grass silage was being chopped. Some concerns were reported about the foliage of the raspberry vines. There may have been some winter damage on the tops of the vines, but the younger vines appeared to be affected rather than the mature vines.

Central

Benton: Spotty showers were experienced this past week. The temperatures were cooler this last week from previous weeks therefore wind machines and frost control were put into use. The county office received some calls from damage on plum and nectarine trees. The cause, according to producers, was freezing temperatures when they dipped into the negative digits this past winter.

Benton (2nd Report): Bud break and tree blossoms were out about ten days earlier than average. Pollination weather had been good with minimal frost problems. Asparagus cutting had slowly begun. Hop tying and irrigation were other activities.

Chelan/Douglas: It was apparent that last fall's freeze affected the winter wheat. Several producers were replanting. Livestock producers reported water shortages and pastures needed to rest given the losses due to the three prior years of drought conditions. Some cherry producers were beginning to note damage because of last fall's freeze. This year's pear crop looked to be lighter, also because of the fall's freezing conditions. Younger trees (one to three years of age) were dying due to the early November freeze. Irrigation water supply may be short in Clockum Creek, based on snow pack data.

Grant: Sweet corn planting continued. Cooler weather and scattered

showers slowed some field activities. Hay & asparagus crops were a week to ten days ahead of normal.

Kittitas: The Kittitas Reclamation District began charging their system as irrigation is to begin soon. Some areas were showing need for water. Sporadic showers provided spotty moisture this past week. Temperatures had been very cool, with heavy frosts experienced on a few nights. Hay field growth was really picking up and pastures not used too heavily last fall were nearly tall enough to graze. Hay growers were preparing irrigation systems for first use and continued to conduct weed control in areas.

Klickitat: Due to rain last week, most farmers were out of the field for a couple of days. Warm weather and lack of March moisture had resulted in poor pasture conditions.

Okanogan: The area was in need of rain. Orchards were blooming a couple of weeks ahead of normal.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from eight degrees above normal to five degrees below normal, with .48 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: A week of unfulfilled expectations was experienced weather wise as numerous days of cloudy weather resulted in only hit and miss showers, although the southern end of the county did report rainfall of about a quarter inch. Spring grains were mostly up and looking good, but everything remained thirsty, with each day of the calendar representing another lost opportunity for the catch up precipitation needed on all crops. Pastures were greening up but could really use a rain to take off. In the basin, fruit trees were further along than normal, heightening worries over the potential for freeze damage.

Adams (2nd Report): Top and subsoil conditions remained unchanged after precipitation last week. Overall precipitation was spotty throughout the county with reports of over an inch of rain to just a few hundredths of an inch and everywhere in between. Winter wheat conditions continued to improve with precipitation as overall 25% of the crop is estimated as good to excellent condition and 60 percent remained in fair condition. Spring cereals are planted and emerged and remain in fair condition.

Asotin/Garfield: Showers prevailed during the week, but accumulations were disappointing with most areas receiving less than .25 inches. Winter wheat had uneven stands in many areas. Some of the wheat with secondary roots was growing well, while the smaller wheat was lagging farther behind. Spring planting was completed in most areas, well ahead of normal. Pastures were not growing well and need more rain.

Lincoln: Rains significantly improved crop and pasture conditions. Spring seeding as well as calving were winding down.

Lincoln (2nd Report): Top and subsoil moisture conditions remained unchanged after precipitation last week. Precipitation was spotty but welcomed. Winter wheat conditions continued to improve with precipitation as 30 percent of the crop is estimated as good to excellent condition and 55 percent remained in fair condition. Spring cereals were nearly planted and emerged and remained in fair condition.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: The southern part of Spokane County received some much needed rain on Thursday. Intermittent rain showers were more typical of April weather than had been the case this spring. Rain totals varied considerably throughout the area. Rain totals were as much as 1 inch to as little as .25 inches this past week. Spring grains planted were starting to show up and look good. Winter wheat that did not have a good stand was being torn out and reseeded. There was more of this going on than expected. Pasture conditions in the very shallow soil areas was already starting to burn up and turn yellow in color. Parts of the county received freezing temperatures Saturday morning.

Stevens: The past week brought much needed rain showers to the area. Grain crops, hay, and pastures all received a boost as varying amounts of rain were received across the county.

Walla Walla: Crops overall appeared in good condition. Rain events of past week were most welcome providing from .5 to 1.25 inches of precipitation throughout area. Numerous windy days slowed down crop dusting progress. Pastures and rangeland experienced growth and appeared to be in good condition.

Whitman: Widespread rains and wet snow made a visit to the Palouse last week. It could not have been timed better. Temperatures had cooled back to normal and precipitation was increasing. The moisture was needed by spring crops, much of which had emerged. Growth in winter wheat and pasture had slowed with the cooler temperatures. Cattle producers had noted the need of warmer, wetter conditions to bring on growth in pastures.

Whitman (2nd Report): Fieldwork was interrupted for much of the week by very welcomed rain showers. Rainfall accumulation was variable across the county with amounts ranging from 0.6 to nearly 1 inch in places, but all was urgently needed after the unusually dry month of March. Crop conditions looked very good.

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Weekly Weather Statistics

April 19, 2004

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	39	62	51	4	15	8	0	0	0.08	-0.55	3	24.06	-4.36	85	113
Everett	44	62	51	3	11	3	0	0	0.24	-0.39	4	23.43	-5.02	82	112
Hoquiam	36	57	49	-1	2	-11	0	0	0.78	-0.25	6	55.51	-2.92	95	141
Kelso	37	63	50	2	8	-6	0	0	0.61	-0.18	3	27.85	-10.49	73	102
Olympia	36	64	49	2	6	-1	0	0	0.61	-0.15	4	40.35	-3.38	92	128
Sea-Tac	42	62	51	3	12	1	0	0	0.23	-0.31	3	29.20	-2.15	93	110
Shelton	36	63	48	-2	3	-11	0	0	0.92	-0.02	4	56.71	-0.63	99	130
Tacoma	39	63	51	2	11	0	0	0	0.15	-0.50	2	27.74	-5.68	83	113
Vancouver	39	64	51	3	12	-2	0	0	0.55	-0.08	5	26.83	-7.53	78	120
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	29	79	50	4	15	7	0	0	0.03	-0.11	2	5.56	-1.45	79	69
Omak	28	76	50	5	20	13	0	0	0.05	-0.22	2	6.71	-3.27	67	57
Stampede Pass	32	55	39	6	0	0	0	0	0.26	-0.89	4	61.31	-8.30	88	132
Wenatchee	34	75	52	2	21	-1	1	1	0.00	-0.15	0	7.15	0.83	113	59
Yakima AP	28	76	49	-2	11	-6	0	0	0.02	-0.12	2	5.03	-1.27	80	55
NORTHEAST															
Colville	34	79	52	7	22	15	0	0	0.31	-0.04	4	6.19	-9.02	41	54
Deer Park	26	73	47	2	10	3	0	0	0.50	0.19	4	13.59	0.06	100	96
Spokane AP	33	74	48	3	15	8	0	0	0.26	0.00	3	8.81	-3.18	73	83
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	32	77	52	2	20	-2	0	0	0.00	-0.08	0	3.37	-2.15	61	49
Moses Lake	29	78	51	0	21	-1	0	0	0.00	-0.08	0	3.67	-1.85	66	48
Quincy	32	74	51	1	17	-3	0	0	0.02	-0.11	1	3.45	-2.57	57	45
Ritzville	34	77	50	4	18	11	0	0	0.08	-0.11	2	7.31	-1.30	85	58
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	35	78	53	-3	26	-12	1	-6	0.18	0.11	2	4.68	-0.50	90	51
Pasco	33	80	54	0	30	-3	0	-5	0.20	0.13	2	5.43	-0.37	94	61
Pullman	32	75	48	3	18	11	0	0	0.64	0.29	3	12.73	-3.18	80	84
Whitman Miss.	33	78	53	3	25	4	0	-6	0.82	0.54	5	12.86	2.58	125	86
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'Alene AP	32	73	48	1	14	7	0	0	0.75	0.38	4	8.54	-10.54	45	76
Lewiston ID	37	80	54	4	37	14	5	1	0.88	0.60	5	6.55	-1.43	82	64

Summary based on NWS data.
Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003
DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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